

WORK OF THE INVITATION COMMITTEE.

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In order that any institution shall attain the best results, a thorough organization is necessary.

A society should be in good working order. There is no person but is of some use somewhere and happy is the society that appreciates and makes use of all its members and their talents. We cannot all preach the Gospel from the pulpit; we are not all gifted with the power of song by which many hearts are won; we are not all blessed with worldly goods that we may forward the cause of the Master in this way, but each and everyone of us, has a place to fill in this world and in this society.

At the World's Fair last summer sight seers had the opportunity to watch the process of diamond cutting and polishing. We could see the precious stones in all stages. At first they were partly hidden in a coarse, hard rock. Then this rock was crushed and the gems were lost in the impure-looking, black mixture. After this they were polished by the different workmen, one taking it as far as possible, then giving it to another who did his part of the work and so on until the last one did his allotted polishing and the gem left his hands dazzling in brilliancy and wonderful in workmanship. There shone from it the combined energy of those who handled it. Had each artisan been left to work at that jewel whenever and however he thought best to do you suppose the result would have been so satisfactory or so quickly reached? It is not necessary for me to try to convince you that any one with a definite work to do and a definite purpose does more effectual service than he whose effort is too widely spread.

A very good feature of committee work is that each member feels that a responsibility rests directly upon him. A committee is a certain number of persons who hold in trust some particular work, a work that has been committed to them for accomplishment.

Hence a committee is by no means an insignificant factor in the King's Children Society.

The selection of members "for each committee" is a work that requires careful thought. It should not be done in a haphazard fashion but the suitability of the person for the place should be considered. All are really working for the same ultimate attainment, which is quite well stated in our constitution: "The object of this Society shall be to unite the young people of the church in good work, to increase Christian zeal, to promote spiritual and intellectual development and to organize their labors systematically for the glory of God and the welfare of humanity."

You have been told how mercy and charity may be carried into the Master's work, how people may be reminded of their duties as members and how the intellect and taste may be trained.

There is another and important phase of the K. C. Society. That is the duty of the Invitation Committee.

"The committee on invitation shall call on strangers and non-church goers, and endeavor to interest them in our work, and secure their attendance at church services and meetings of the Society." The members, as the character of their work demands, should be of a social turn. There are several classes of non-church goers and they cannot all be successfully approached in the same manner. In the first place, there are the strangers, those who have lately moved into the village or city in which our society works. These, as we will suppose, are not members of any denomination in town. They have as yet formed no associations that will lead them to attend church service and feel themselves to be strangers in a strange land. They perhaps attend church once or twice and having no acquaintances find that little notice is taken of them. They begin to wonder at the lack of sociability in the churches. Soon some member of the invitation committee makes a pleasant call upon them and casually invites them out to Young People's meeting. This member does not forget when the strangers respond to the invitation, to greet them cordially and make them acquainted with her friends. The newcomers begin to feel that some interest is taken in them after all and in their turn re-

ciprocate that interest.

There are cards at the disposal of those who prefer this kind of invitation. These may be distributed on such occasions. There seems to be nothing difficult about reaching these people and in fact they are an easy class to induce to attend services when they are not averse to it. It requires some courage, however, to do one's duty in this respect.

Another person is a non church goer because he is indifferent from habit. Ask him to come on some special occasion when something extra is going on, and then endeavor to sustain his interest. Perhaps this person is indifferent to church service because the members appear to be indifferent to him. Make him feel that his presence is desirable.

Then there are the people who think the church accomplishes no good, some harm, and is rather an expensive and useless institution. They do not think that their morality or spirituality is elevated by attending church and in fact these matters do not concern them much any way. These fault-finding people are difficult to reach. We soon lose patience with them but if our invitation committee will prayerfully persist in this personal work, they may be won. Others remain at home or go elsewhere because they imagine they can find better entertainment, they long for something exciting.

And so on—many other classes of non-church goers might be mentioned but they are all different. They cannot even properly be grouped into classes for the individuals must be approached in different ways and won by various means. I cannot tell you specifically how this is to be done but what I wish to emphasize is that personal interest, magnetism and social tact are necessary. We have often heard that it is not so much what we say as *how* we say it. Some people have natural gifts along the social line. Their expression and manner are so pleasing that it is quite easy to respond to their requests. Such will find a good field for the use of their talents in the work of the Invitation Committee. If their efforts are prompted by interest in their fellowmen and *comes from the heart* they will surely not be unrewarded.